

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07613 201123Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 055510

R 192100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1779

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7613

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV BL

SUBJ: PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO FROM BOLIVIA

REF: LA PAZ 7484, 7404

1. SUMMARY: NUMEROUS SIGNS POINT TO PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF MNR PARTY CHIEF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO FROM BOLIVIA, EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR UNDER GOB EXPULSION ORDER, PRIOR TO JANUARY MNR CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PAST TWO WEEKS, BANZER GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO EXERT MOUNTING PRESSURE UPON MNR PARTY CHIEF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, WITH EVIDENT INTENTION OF EITHER INDUCING HIM TO REJOIN GOVERNMENT COALITION OR ELSE BRINGING ABOUT HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY. EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THAT GOVERNMENT BEGAN BY WITHDRAWING FINANCIAL SUBSIDY PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO PAZ, AS WELL AS TAKING BACK OFFICIAL VEHICLE AND GUARDS ORIGINALLY PLACED AT HIS DISPOSAL. OPEN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR INSTALLATION OF ANTI-PAZ LEADERSHIP GROUP IN MNR'S LA PAZ DEPARTMENT COMMAND, PLUS NAMING OF PAZ OPPONENT GUILLERMO FORTUN AS PRESIDENT OF BANCO DEL ESTADO (SEE REFTELS), FURTHER CLARIFIED NATURE OF GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE TO VPE'S LEADERSHIP POSITION. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ALSO BEGAN TO CALL IN KEY PAZ SUPPORTERS WITHIN MNR, TO GIVE THEM PRELIMINARY WARNING AGAINST

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 07613 201123Z

ENGAGING IN "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES; IN PAST, SUCH WARNINGS

HAVE OCCASIONALLY FORMED FIRST LINK IN CHAIN OF EV NTS LEADING TO GOVERNMENT DECISION TO EXILE OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES.

3. IN RECENT DAYS, OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN HAS TAKEN ON NEW CAST, WITH PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES IN GOVERNMENT-BACKED DAILY NEWSPAPER HOY CHARGING THAT VICTOR PAZ HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH EXILED MNR-I LEADER HERMAN SILES ZUAZO, NOW REPORTED TO BE RESIDING IN BUENOS AIRES. HOY ARTICLES OF DECEMBER 18 AND 19 WERE BACKED BY STATEMENT OF FPN SECRETARY-GENERAL JAIME PONCO CABALLERO ON DECEMBER 18 ALLEGING THAT PAZ HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EXILED LEFTISTS FOR MANY MONTHS, AND THUS IS "AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ELEMENT FOR THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PEACE OF THE COUNTRY." SIGNIFICANTLY, HOY ARTICLES, INCLUDING STATEMENTS BY PONCE CABALLERO, APPEARED AT TIME WHEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR IS AGAIN WARNING OF CONTINUED ANTI-GOVERNMENT AGITATION BEING CARRIED OUT BY CERTAIN POLITICIANS WITHIN BOLIVIA. COINCIDENCE OF THIS SERIES OF CHARGES LED DR. PAZ HIMSELF TO ISSUE STATEMENT DECEMBER 18 DENOUNCING "MANEUVERS" WHICH SEEK TO REMOVE HIM FROM BOLIVIAN POLITICAL SCENE, AND DENYING ANY CONTACT WITH SILES ZUAZO.

4. COMMENT: INCREASING NUMBERS OF EMBASSY SOURCES ARE NOW STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BRING ABOUT PAZ' REMOVAL FROM COUNTRY PRIOR TO JANUARY 10-13 MNR NATIONAL CONVENTION. APART FROM RISK THAT PAZ WOULD AGAIN BE ABLE TO DOMINATE CONVENTION OF HIS PARTY, DESPITE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HUMBOLDT-LED FORCES WITHIN MNR, GOB IS APPARENTLY ALSO CONCERNED THAT EVEN PASSIVE PRESENCE OF VPE IN BOLIVIA WOULD STRENGTHEN OPPOSITION IN WAYS PREJUDICIAL TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER POLITICAL SITUATION. PAZ IS REPORTED TO "HAVE HIS BAGS PACKED" IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO EXPEL HIM FROM BOLIVIA, WHILE REMAINING UNWILLING TO DEPART VOLUNTARILY AND THUS ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO SAVE FACE OVER ISSUE WHILE AVOIDING EXPECTED CRITICISM OF PAZ EXPULSION FROM PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION OUTSIDE BOLIVIA. THUS, EVENTS APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARD A DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF ANOMALOUS DIVISION OF MNR BROUGHT ABOUT BY PAZ DECISION TO LEAVE FPN COALITION ON NOVEMBER 27, ALTHOUGH ANTICIPATED GOB MOVE AGAINST HIM MAY ONLY CREATE GREATER LONG-TERM PROBLEMS FOR BANZER GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 07613 201123Z

STEDMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COALITION GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, EXILES, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LAPAZ07613  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LA PAZ  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731216/aaaaalrn.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** LA PAZ 7484, 7404  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO FROM BOLIVIA  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, BL, (PAZ ESTENSSORO, VICTOR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005